

HISTORY OF USS BASILONE (DD 824)

USS BASILONE (DD 824) was constructed at the Boston Naval Shipyard and commissioned on 26 July 1946. She is named after late Gunnery Sergeant John BASILONE, USMC, of Raritan, N.J., who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism displayed during the fighting at Guadalcanal. BASILONE, a Gearing class destroyer, is 390 feet long and 40 feet wide, draws 22 feet of water and displaces 3500 tons. Two turbines, using steam generated by four oil-fired boilers develop 60,000 shaft horsepower and drive BASILONE at a maximum speed in excess of 30 knots. In peacetime she is normally manned by a crew of 266 enlisted men and 15 officers.

Since her commissioning, BASILONE has operated extensively in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean. In 1956 BASILONE deployed to the Sixth Fleet during the Suez crisis, and in 1958 she went back to the Mediterranean when another crisis developed in Lebanon. Upon returning to the United States she joined a hunter-killer group engaged in anti-submarine warfare. When the Cuban missile crisis developed in the fall of 1962, BASILONE was in Guantanamo Bay. She immediately proceeded to join in the naval blockade that eventually forced the withdrawal of the Russian missiles.

In July 1963 BASILONE entered the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard under the Navy's Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) Program, the purpose of which was to extend the useful life of destroyers by providing them with the latest anti-submarine and electronic warfare equipment. It was during this yard period that BASILONE received a modern sonar, anti-submarine torpedoes and the anti-submarine rocket (ASROC). BASILONE retained two dual purpose 5"/38 twin mounts, which gave her secondary capabilities of anti-air warfare and shore bombardment.

Returning from her FRAM overhaul in April of 1964, BASILONE was transferred to Destroyer Squadron TWELVE, homeported in Newport, R.I. During 1964 and 1965 BASILONE again operated in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and in January of 1966 she deployed to the Western Pacific.

In the fall of 1966, BASILONE returned to ASW and training operations in the Western Atlantic. In May of 1967, soon after BASILONE joined the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, war broke out between the Israelis and the Arabs. Moving to a ready station off the coast of Crete, BASILONE stayed at sea with the other units of the Sixth Fleet for seven weeks until the crisis had passed.

Returning to her homeport in September of 1967, BASILONE sailed on two short training cruises before entering the Boston Naval Shipyard for a regular overhaul in January of 1968. Following the overhaul and Refresher Training at Guantanamo Bay, BASILONE once again deployed to the Mediterranean in September of that year.

BASILONE returned to Newport in January of 1969 and sailed to the Caribbean three times between then and August, conducting Destroyer School and Midshipmen Training cruises. She deployed again in the Mediterranean in November, returning in May of 1970. After spending the summer being involved in a goodwill trip to New York and escort duties for the America's Cup races, BASILONE was again called on for emergency deployment on 23 September 1970 in order to augment the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

Upon returning to Newport in November of 1970, BASILONE entered a period of leave, upkeep and tender availability which was carried through Christmas of 1970.

339
COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON THIRTY-SIX

U.S.S. ROBERT A. OWENS (DDE-827) FLAGSHIP

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New York, New York

CDS36/JHC(mn)

5750

Ser: 72

MAR 18 1961

OPNAV Report 5750-5

From: Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-SIX

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5750-5)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.9

(b) COMDESRON 36 ltr WFH(mn) 5750 Ser 355 of 21 Sep 1959

Encl: (1) Updating of Command History for Period of Calendar Year 1959
(new pages I-5, I-6, I-7, II-1, III-5 and III-6)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. a. Add pages I-5 through I-7 to Part I of enclosure (1) to reference (b).
b. Replace page II-1 with enclosed page II-1.
c. Add pages III-5 and III-6 to Part III of enclosure (1) to reference (b).

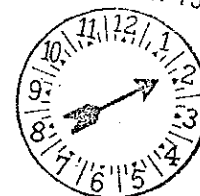
W. J. Barz
W. J. BARZ

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OPNAV CENTRAL MAIL ROOM
29 MAR 1961



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During December, the Squadron was in port in upkeep and leave status except HOLDER, R. L. WILSON and BASILONE, who participated in Operation MONSOON.

During the months of January and February DESRON 36 participated in Operation SPRINGBOARD, which included a two-week tender availability.

On 15 February DESDIV 361 was detached from SPRINGBOARD operations to take stations for Operation AMIGO. After the presidential overflight, DESDIV 361 sailed for Norfolk for leave and upkeep, commencing 27 February. DESDIV 362 also commenced leave and upkeep at this time. DESDIV 361 with the exception of R. A. OWENS, participated in type training and services commencing on 14 March and continuing through 31 March. R. A. OWENS prepared for INSURV during this period and received a grade of SATISFACTORY on 25 March. DESDIV 362 participated in LANTPHIBEX from 23 March through 31 March.

DESDIV 362 returned from LANTPHIBEX on 6 April while DESDIV 361 continued in upkeep until 11 April. At this time, DESDIV 361 conducted type training and services in the Virginia Capes Op-Area. DESDIV 362 remained in an upkeep status from 6 April until 18 April, when both division commenced a tender period.

The Squadron conducted type training and services during the period 9 May - 20 May. DAMATO was assigned to a Destroyer Development Group TWO project during this period. On 10 and 11 May the ships of DESDIV 361 participated in a Project MERCURY training exercise.

On Armed Forces Day week-end, the ships of DESRON 36 visited various ports on the East Coast. They continued type training and services until 23 May, when DESDIV 362 returned to Norfolk for an upkeep period while DESDIV 361 continued type training and services until 30 May, when they commenced preparations for regular overhaul.

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During December, the squadron was in port in upkeep and leave periods.

Destroyer Division 362 conducted type training and services from 6 through 15 June with R. L. WILSON participating in TRAMID exercises on 14 through 16 June and 22 through 24 June. On 15 June BASILONE and DAMATO began preparations for overhaul with R. L. WILSON, beginning on 26 June.

Destroyer Division 361 completed preparations and entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard on 15 June for regular overhaul. DESDIV 362 then entered the Yard on 29 June. During the month of August, HOLDER received the Battle Efficiency "E" and all ships in the Squadron became recipients of the ASW "A" for fiscal year 1960.

On 19 September DESDIV 361 completed their yard overhaul and commenced a two-week RFS and ISE period, sailing on 30 September for Guantanamo Bay, where refresher training was commenced on 7 October.

DESDIV 362 completed their yard overhaul on 20 October and commenced their two-week RFS and ISE period ending on 11 November when they commenced Refresher Training at Guantanamo.

R. A. OWENS and NEW completed their refresher training on 17 November and participated in Project MERCURY recovery until 23 November when they arrived in Norfolk for leave and upkeep.

HOLDER and RICH departed Guantanamo on 19 November and arrived in Norfolk on 22 November to commence their leave and upkeep periods. On 29 November DESDIV 361 reported under the operational control of COMASDEFORLANT, and on 1 December commenced a tender availability alongside USS SIERRA (AD 18) which was completed on 19 December.

Captain Walter J. BARRY, USN relieved Captain Henry C. SCHWANER, Jr., USN as Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-SIX on 3 December 1960.

On 19 December DESDIV 362 returned from Guantanamo and came alongside SIERRA for a tender availability.

After completing a leave and upkeep period on 26 December, DESDIV 361
got underway for ASW Ready Duty, lasting until 6 January 1961.

On 27 December DESDIV 362 came under the operational control of COM-10
ASDEFORLANT.

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Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-SIX
Care of Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

CDS 36/DLK:gn
5705
Ser:

8 FEB 1963

Command
OPNAV Report 5705-5

From: Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-SIX
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5705-5)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.9
(b) COMDESRON 36 ltr ser 355 dtd 21 Sep 1959

Encl: (1) Updating of Command History for Period of Calendar Year 1962
(new pages I-8, I-9, I-10, II-2, III-11 and III-12)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. a. Replace page I-8 with enclosed page I-8 and add pages I-9, I-10 to Part I of enclosure (1) to reference (b).
- b. Add page II-2 to Part II of enclosure (1) to reference (b).
- c. Add pages III-11 and III-12 to Part III of enclosure (1) to reference (b).

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D. L. KUDER
By direction

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The squadron returned to CONUS on 31 August 1961.

On 23 September 1961, CAPT W. J. HURST, USN, (b) (6) /1100 relieved CDR J. R. BRANSCOME as COMDESDIV 362.

September, October, and early November were devoted to tender and interim yard overhaul. During this time, the NEW and BASILONE rejoined the Squadron. Also, on 2 October the USS MC NAIR (DD 697), a Naval Reserve Training Ship, joined the Squadron and was assigned to DESDIV 362. On 24 October MC NAIR deployed to GTMO for refresher training until late December when she joined the Squadron for ASW operations. The remainder of the Squadron participated in ASW exercises as part of Task Group BRAVO in November and December, including SLAMEX 1-61.

Captain Duncan F. FRANCIS, USN, relieved Captain Walter J. BARRY, USN as Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-SIX on 27 December 1961.

On 6 January 1962, the Squadron was underway for ASW operations, followed by participation in the recovery force under Project Mercury. Calls were made on 23 and 29-31 January at the Naval Station, Bermuda by DESDIV 361; Mayport, Florida by DESDIV 362 less MC NAIR, who made port at San Juan, Puerto Rico. With delays in the scheduled launching, DESRON 36 returned to Norfolk for upkeep in preparation for a four month deployment to Eastern Atlantic.

The Squadron departed Norfolk on 17 February bound for Portsmouth, England. Enroute via Bermudian waters, DESRON 36 acted as relief recovery unit when on 20 February, Colonel Glenn successfully completed the United States' first orbital flight. The Squadron arrived at Portsmouth on 1 March.

During the next four month period in Eastern Atlantic, visits were made at Rotterdam 15-22 March; Belfast (DESDIV 361), Glasgow (DESDIV 362) 31 March - 5 April; Plymouth 12-23 April; Flensburg (R.A. OWENS, DAMATO, BASILONE),

Kiel (MC NAIR, HOLDER), Lubeck (R.L. WILSON, RICH, NEW) 4-14 May; Oslo (DESDIV 361); Horton (R.L. WILSON, MC NAIR), Moss (DAMATO, BASILONE) 21 - 28 May. ASW operations were conducted during at-sea periods in the Bay of Biscay, Irish Sea and North Sea. DAMATO and BASILONE conducted joint operations with British destroyers under the direction of ASW School, Londonderry 5-11 April. RICH, R. A. OWENS, and R. L. WILSON drydocked in Plymouth for hull repairs.

Enroute Iceland the Squadron participated in LANTBEX for four days, with R. A. OWENS, NEW, and MC NAIR briefly calling at Reykjavik. DAMATO proceeded independently to the Faeroe Islands to transport Ambassador Blair to Copenhagen, Denmark. 6 June final departure was made from Iceland as DESRON 36, less DAMATO headed for CONUS.

On 16 June, the Squadron arrived at Norfolk with MC NAIR proceeding to Philadelphia (MC NAIR left the Squadron on 1 August returning to Reserve Training duties.)

Captain C. A. TURNER, USN assumed command of DESDIV 362 on 18 July.

Midshipmen were embarked for training in July. ASW operations were conducted 16-23 July and 6-17 August, with a four day visit to New York City 18-21 August. Midshipmen debarked on 24 August.

DESDIV 362 departed Norfolk on 24 September for duty as gunfire support ships at Guantanamo, Cuba. DESDIV 361 remained in port for leave and upkeep, getting underway on 26 October, after the President's proclamation quarantining Cuba. DESDIV 362 rejoined as the Squadron with the USS WASP (CVS 18), chopped to CTF 136, taking station east of the Bahama Islands and assuming duties as ASW support and surveillance at entrances to passages leading to Cuba.

235

COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON THIRTY-SIX

U.S.S. ROBERT A. OWENS (DDE-827) FLAGSHIP

Care Of Fleet Post Office

New York, New York

CDS36/DFF:be

5705-

Ser, 79

24 FEB 1962

OPNAV Report 5705-5

From: Commander Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-SIX

To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Command History (OPNAV Report 5705-5)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.9

(b) COMDESRON 36 ltr WFH(mn) 5750 Ser 355 of 21 Sep 1959

Encl: (1) Updating of Command History for Period of Calendar Year 1961
(new pages I-7, I-8, II-1, III-7, III-8, III-9 and III-10)

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted herewith.
2. a. Replace page I-7 with enclosed page I-7 and add page I-8 to Part 1 of enclosure (1) to reference (b).
b. Replace page II-1 with enclosed page II-1 to Part II of enclosure (1) to reference (b).
c. Add pages III-7, III-8, III-9 and III-10 to Part III of enclosure (1) to reference (b).

D. F. Francis
D. F. FRANCIS

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After completing a leave and upkeep period on 26 December, DESDIV 361 got underway for ASW Ready Duty, returning to Norfolk on 6 January 1961.

On 27 December, DESDIV 362 became under the operational control of COM-ASDEFORLANT.

During December, the Squadron was in port in upkeep and leave status except HOLDER and R. L. WILSON who participated in Operation MONSOON.

From 22 January to 2 February DESDIV 362 was scheduled for Operation SPRINGBOARD but on 23 January, R. L. WILSON and DAMATO were assigned to locate and shadow the S.S. SANTA MARIA a run-a-way Portuguese ship. During this assignment R. L. WILSON and DAMATO visited Recife, Brazil returning to Norfolk 13 February.

During 28 December thru 8 January 1961, and 30 January thru 14 February, DESDIV 361 was underway with TG 83.3 and TG 83.4 respectively, for ASW Ready Duty, being detached on 15 February to return to Norfolk for leave and upkeep.

In March DESRON 36 was assigned to ASW Group BRAVO, one of three special units in the Atlantic Fleet charged with a mission of developing anti-submarine tactics with particular emphasis on the support of a Carrier Strike Force.

The NEW (DDE 818) left Norfolk on 15 March 1961 to tour African ports on a goodwill cruise in connection with SOLANT AMITY II returning on 10 September 1961.

On 8 June 1961, the Squadron deployed to the SIXTH Fleet with USS WASP (CVS 18) to conduct ASW operations and act as cruise ships for Naval Academy and NROTC Midshipmen. BASILONE remained in CONUS working with ASW Task Group 83.4 - during this period she embarked Midshipmen for a trip to Quebec and Boston.

On 11 August 1961, Captain Robert E. JEFFERY, USN, COMDESDIV 362 was transferred. CDR J. R. BRANSCOME, USN, (b) (6) 1100, Commanding Officer, USS R. L. WILSON (DDE 847) was acting COMDESDIV 362.

